

A KITCHEN AND BATH IN A VACATION HOME NEAR HOOD RIVER ARE DESIGNED IN A HAMPTONS-MEETS-SWEDISH FARMHOUSE-STYLE THAT RECALLS THE HOMEOWNERS' YEARS LIVING ON THE EAST COAST AND EUROPE AND, AS A BONUS, OFFERS STUNNING VIEWS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE.

# FOREIGN EXCHANGE

WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE BOYLE MAYS PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSH PARTEE





To bring the aesthetics of the outbuildings inside, Vanillawood installed a slab barn-style door to provide privacy between the home's public and private spaces. Hung to slide across the hallway leading to the master bedroom and bath, the slab style door was treated with the same automotive finish as the cabinetry and hung from above on a track system with rollers from Krown Lab.

AFTER LIVING IN MAINE, THE NETHERLANDS AND SWEDEN, Barbara Bruch-Connelly and Bruce Connelly had a clear sense of what they wanted when they decided to build a vacation home near Hood River. First step was engaging Portland architect Jack Barnes who had redone their Portland bungalow. "We loved the process of our remodel in Portland, and we wanted to repeat that by building a home," said Bruch-Connelly.

"We had the architect, but we needed someone who could implement the vision in the kitchen and bath. My husband and I had ideas based on our ex-pat years. It was kind of the Hamptons meets Swedish farmhouse. I had seen the exact cabinetry I wanted in a kitchen showroom in Paris," recalled Bruch-Connelly. "I was walking through the Pearl and saw the Vanillawood showroom. It was filled with custom cabinetry that looked just like what I had seen in Paris."

Inside the home, the husband-and-wife design team of James and Kricken Yaker, owners of Vanillawood, a design, build interiors firm, were hired to space plan and design the kitchen and master bath. Much of the kitchen's tone is set by a Cellula chandelier with Swarovski crystals that Bruch-Connelly had already purchased. "One of the first design directives we were given was to find a home for this very glam chandelier," said Kricken. "The trick was to mix that with the laid back essence they wanted for their retreat from the city."

Extensive cabinetry was custom built by Vanillawood and finished in their signature automotive paint, which provided a glossy shine and unmatched durability. The sleek white of the cabinets is matched by the counters, which are Pental quartz, a composite stone.

Blue-stained floors, Oslo from Stang-Lund, complement the kitchen's most arresting feature—a wall made of ledger stone in carbon slate. The texture adds an organic element that grounds the sleek high gloss cabinetry. "The material and scale are unexpected. It gave us an opportunity to keep the space warm and inviting. We had used this stone in a commercial project and felt it would also work well in a home" according to Kricken.

White display shelves emphasize the stone's linear lines and echo the white cabinetry. A long center island provides more storage, an additional work surface and a place by which to park bar-height chairs. The island's waterfall design uses the same Pental quartz on the sides as it does on its top surface.



The light and airy kitchen was oriented so the homeowners would have easy access to the outside patio and enjoy the views of the Gorge. Designed so the homeowners could enjoy cooking side by side and have ample workspace, the kitchen has an expansive under-the-window sink with two faucets, extra long counters and an island. The plethora of under counter storage space also meant no upper cabinets would impede the view.

The bathroom offers a mix of textures in the white palette also seen in the kitchen. The wall-hung cabinetry was treated to the same automotive finish as cabinets in the kitchen. White Carrera marble and white pebble tiles cover the floor. On the shower walls, oversized matte white subway tile is stacked linear. The white tones, glass shower wall and a huge mirror make the most of the natural light that enters the bathroom from a small window.



To the left of the ledger stone, cabinets house the refrigerator, bar, wine refrigerator, ovens and more storage. On the opposite side of the room is a 42-inch-wide custom sink, created from the same quartz material as the counters. “We both like to be in the kitchen and like to work together. I had requested a 42-inch sink with two faucets, but I didn’t even know if it was possible,” remarked Bruch-Connelly. “Vanillawood gets a lot of credit for that.”

To bring the design sensibility of the house and out-buildings to the inside of the home, Vanillawood worked with Crown Lab, a local manufacturer known for their modern barn track systems. “These are a great solution to keep spaces open without the intrusion of a door swinging into the room, but they can also be closed for privacy” according to Kricken.

The bathroom’s white walls and marble and stone floors reflect the light that streams in the window. Cabinets here are wall hung and also treated to the white automotive finish used in the kitchen. This time, however, they are topped with a recycled glass counter. Chrome brackets and Euro-style channels support the glass wall that separates the shower area from the rest of the space. The shower is practically outfitted with two showerheads: one fixed and the other on a sliding bar. “We like to use two different types when clients ask for two heads,” explained Kricken. “It provides more flexibility.” To replicate the Scandinavian practice of mixing sleek and antique, Bruch-Connelly positioned an armoire near the door to hold towels and other bathroom necessities.

“Vanillawood did a lovely job of putting the kitchen and bathroom together, of realizing our vision and of introducing new ideas,” concluded Bruch-Connelly. “It’s stunningly beautiful and absolutely effortless.”

#### PROJECT SOURCES

CONTRACTOR / DESIGN FIRM: Vanillawood, [vanillawood.com](http://vanillawood.com)

APPLIANCES: BASCO, [bascoappliances.com](http://bascoappliances.com)

PLUMBING FIXTURES: Chown Hardware, [chown.com](http://chown.com)

CABINETY: Vanillawood, [vanillawood.com](http://vanillawood.com)

Appliances: BASCO: Miele rangetop, dishwasher, oven, microwave; Sub-Zero refrigerator, wine cooler; Plumbing fixtures: Chown Hardware: Duravit; Dining table: Saarinen Round; Design Within Reach; Dining chairs: Eames: Design Within Reach

## Planning Tips: Storage GALORE



High on the homeowners’ must-have list was copious amount of storage. To fulfill that request, Vanillawood built a center island and installed custom cabinetry on three sides of the kitchen-and-dining area. On the long wall of the space, the cabinetry allows a window to peek through and incorporates a wine refrigerator, microwave, oven and refrigerator/freezer. Cabinet doors open to reveal drawers, cubbyholes, vertical storage and pullout shelving. Self-closing drawers beneath the cooktop counter and island provide readily accessible space for pots and pans, small appliances, and dishes and flatware. More storage is offered in the length of cabinetry beneath the sink.